VZCZCXRO6681 OO RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW DE RUEHNE #3462/01 2120920 ZNY CCCCC ZZH O 310920Z JUL 07 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7227 INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6446 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2288 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5224 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5169 RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 7159 RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 003462

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DEPT FOR SCA/INS, DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2017 TAGS: PGOV PHUM PREL PINR IN

SUBJECT: INDIA'S LEFT FRONT (C-NE7-01274)

REF: STATE 103124

Classified By: PolCouns Ted Osius for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

In response to reftel's request for ¶1. (C) Summary: reporting on the Left Front in India, Post has compiled below a list of reporting out of Chennai, Kolkata, and New Delhi on the Left from the past year. There is a negligible Left presence in the Mumbai Consulate district. The cables below respond to some key questions raised in SecState 103124. Post will continue to meet with Left Front leaders and provide further analysis in response to reftel. End Summary.

New Delhi Reporting

12. (C) Since May 2006, Embassy New Delhi wrote numerous cables, often in conjunction with Consulate Kolkata and Chennai, highlighting the Left front. These cables covered a range of topics, including Left influence on the ruling UPA government, economic reform, and foreign policy.

--Politics and Pipeline Set the Stage for 123 End Game in Washington New Delhi 3229 July 2007 --Left Torpedoes Foreign University Bill New Delhi 3341 July 2007 --A Third Front Gets off to a Shaky Start June 2007 New Delhi 2678 --India on the Threshold of Electing its First Woman President New Delhi 2805 June 2007 --Parliament Adjourns Amidst Chaos: US Lawmakers' Letter Stokes the Ire of Parliamentarians New Delhi 2230 May 2007 -- New Delhi Weekly Econ Office Highlights New Delhi 2280 May 2007 -- The UPA at Three Years - Mired in Mediocrity New Delhi 2475 May 2007 --Delhi Diary, May 24-30 New Delhi 2563 May 2007 --GOI Advancing Reforms Outside Parliament New Delhi 2065 April 2007 --Samajwadi Party Pulls Support from UPA Government, but

Election Commission Sets Uttar Pradesh Poll Dates

New Delhi 871 February 2007

--Ahluwalia Reviews Reforms with Staffdel Fite

New Delhi 848 February 2007

--Party Spokesmen Agree that Equitable Development Is a Top

Priority

New Delhi 94 January 2007

--Ahluwahlia and Lavin Discuss Potential for Private Led

Growth in India

New Delhi 8200 Dec 2006

--India's Communist Parties Debate How to Use Their Increased

Power Even as they Face Losing It

New Delhi 8003 November 2006

--CPI-M Defends Left's Position on Economic Reforms

New Delhi 7996 November 2006

--Anti-American Groups use Saddam Verdict to Squeeze UPA Hard

New Delhi 7618 November 2006

--Cabinet Shuffle Generates Little Excitement in Political

Circles

New Delhi 7442 October 2006

--Congress at the Half Way Mark - More Confident Than Ever

New Delhi 7153 October 2006

--Indian Muslim Resentment Smoldering Over Lebanon and Gaza

New Delhi 5470 August 2006 --PM Singh Draws Nuclear Redlines New Delhi 5802 August 2006

--Privitaization Policy Leads to Prime Ministerial

Resignation "Crisis"

New Delhi 4819 July 2006

--Left Parties Issue Unfavorable Report Card to UPA Partners

New Delhi 4253 June 2006

-- The Communists are on a Roll and Loaded for Bear

NEW DELHI 00003462 002 OF 002

New Delhi 4062 June 2006

--Rumors of A Third Front Yet Again Make the Rounds in Delhi

New Delhi 4202 June 2006

Chennai Reporting

3.(C) Since May 2006, Chennai has drafted six focused reports on the Left providing insight into business and economic perspectives, local political dynamics, Muslim-Left relations and more.

--Claims of CIA conspiracies abound in Kerala Communist

Infighting

Chennai 281 April 2007

--After Closing Coke, Kerala Activists Target Pepsi

Chennai 314 April 2007

--India,s Security Concerns over Chinese Bidder Forces

Kerala to Re-bid Port Project

Chennai 187 March 2007

--Divided and Ambivalent: Kerala, s New Leftist Government

off to a Slow Start

Chennai 1418 July 2006

--Kerala Chief Minister Achuthanandan: Vintage Communist

Takes Charge

Chennai 1195 June 2006

--Behind Kerala,s Leftist Sweep: Shift in Muslim Votes and

Distaste for Congress Squabbling

Chennai 960 May 2006

Kolkata Reporting

14. (C) Since November 2006, Kolkata did a series of reporting on the Left Front which has notable strength in the Eastern portion of the country. These cables covered local Left politics, economic issues, foreign policy perspectives, and land reform.

--Renewed Violence in Nandigram Indicates a Political Battle for Rural Voters

Kolkata 145 May 2007 --USTR Ambassador Schwab Meets West Bengal Chief Minister and Local Farmers Kolkata 129 April 2007 --What Does Nandigram Mean for the CPM? March 2007 Kolkata 104 --Recent Deaths in Nandigram Highlight West Bengal's Violence Local Politics Kolkata 95 March 2007 --West Bengal Faces Fallout From Nandigram Violence March 2007 Kolkata 92 --Left Parties to Push Their Agenda and Challenge UPA During Budget Session February 2007 Kolkata 68 --West Bengal's Land Battle Highlights Challenges of Transition from Agriculture to Industry February 2007 Kolkata 41 --DCM Talks Agriculture in West Bengal Kolkata 31 January 2007 --West Bengal: Mamata Starts Eating Again, but Pot Still Simmering on Agricultural Land for Industry December 2006 Calcutta 578 --Ambassador Mulford's Meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Bhattacharjee Calcutta 539 December 2006 -- India's Communists Lobby for China

 $\P5.$ (U) Further reporting on key questions in reftel will follow. WHITE

November 2006

Calcutta 495